

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192524

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PGOV, CY, TU, US

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR

REF: ANKARA 6060 AND PREVIOUS

1. TURKISH CHARGE NURES CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
VEST AUGUST 12 TO CONVEY TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION TO
US DECISION TO RECOGNIZE MAKARIOS' SUCCESSOR AS PRESIDENT
OF REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. IN LENGTHY PRESENTATION SIMILAR TO
DEMARCHÉ MADE BY TULUMEN IN ANKARA (ANKARA 5997), NURES
CONCLUDED THAT SUCH RECOGNITION BY US WOULD CREATE
DIFFICULTIES IN NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS. NURES ALSO
QUESTIONED PROPRIETY OF NICOSIA PRESS CONFERENCE BY CLARK
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CLIFFORD WHOSE REMARKS, TURKS FELT WERE PARTIAL TO GREEK
CYPRIOT VIEWPOINT AND IMPLIED THAT TURKISH-CYPRIOTS WERE
INTRANSIGENT. NURES EXPRESSED REGRET THAT CLIFFORD MADE NO
CONTACT WITH DENKTASH.

2. VEST EXPLAINED REASON FOR PRESS CONFERENCE, NAMELY THAT
SECRETARY CLIFFORD WAS BESIEGED BY JOURNALISTS WANTING

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS AND MOST IMPARTIAL WAY WAS TO HAVE OPEN MEETING WHERE ANYONE INTERESTED COULD POSE QUESTIONS, INCLUDING TURKISH JOURNALISTS WHO HAD BEEN INVITED BUT WERE NOT PERMITTED TO APPEAR. VEST INFORMED NURES THAT CLIFFORD HAD SENT FRIENDLY MESSAGE TO DENKTASH EXPLAINING THAT CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS VISIT TO CYPRUS MADE IT INAPPROPRIATE TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH ANYONE (NURES WAS UNAWARE OF TH;S COMMUNICATION). VEST ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IN QUESTION AND ANSWER SITUATION, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SELECT SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION AS IS CASE WHEN READING PREPARED STATEMENT.

3. VEST MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON SUCCESSION QUESTION:

A. THE 1960 CONSTITUTION OF CYPRUS REMAINS IN FORCE AND THE GOVERNMENT IN OFFICE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CONSTITUTION CONTINUES TO ENJOY AUTHORITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO REPRESENT THE REPUBLIC INTERNATIONALLY. THE UNITED STATES WILL REGARD PRESIDENTS ELECTED AND SERVING UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION AS PRESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, AND WILL MAINTAIN NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THA: GOVERNMENT.

B. GREEK-CYPRIOT ACTIONS IN THE PAST WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT WITH SOME PROVISIONS OF THE 1960 CYPRUS CONSTITUTION HAVE NOT INVALIDATED THAT DOCUMENT.
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C. THE DEATH OF MAKARIOS DOES NOT AND COULD NOT CHANGE THE BASIC VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING THE CONTINUED LEGITIMACY OF THE CYPRUS CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT. WE WANT TO LET TURKEY KNOW IN ALL CANDOR PRECISELY WHAT OUR POSITION IS, SO THERE WILL BE NO CONFUSION OR MISUNDERSTANDING.

D. WE WANT TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE AREA. WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT TURKEY'S POSITION ON THE SUCCESSOR TO MAKARIOS WILL NOT HAVE AN INHIBITING EFFECT ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. WE WOULD OBSERVE THAT THE INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATING FORUM CONSTITUTES THE ONE PLACE WHERE THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES AT PRESENT ENJOY EQUAL STATUS.

E. IT SEEMS TO US THAT IT IS NOT HELPFUL FOR EITHER OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO PUBLICLY HIGHLIGHT OUR DISAGREEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. TO DO SO WILL ONLY PLAY INTO HANDS OF ELEMENTS IN AND OUT OF CYPRUS WHO WISH TO HARM THE PROSPECTS OF REACHING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION.

4. NURES AGREED THAT OTHER POWERS ALWAYS WANT TO FISH IN TROUBLED WATERS AND REFERRED TO PREVIOUS REPORTS OF PLO BACKED TERRORISM ON CYPRUS AND THE SOVIET DESIRE TO CONVENE AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS. VEST CONCLUDED BY REITERATING OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN CYPRUS PROBLEM AND OUR DETERMINATION TO

CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

5. EMBASSY ANKARA MAY FIND IT HELPFUL TO USE POINTS IN PARA 3 ABOVE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS PROBLEM WITH TURKISH MFA. CHRISTOPHER

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